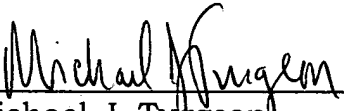


**R marks:**

Claims 11-14 and 25-27 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-10 and 15-24 as originally filed have been canceled.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the below listed attorney if the Examiner believes that a telephone conference will advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Michael J. Turgeon  
Reg. No. 39,404

Dated: January 15, 2004

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